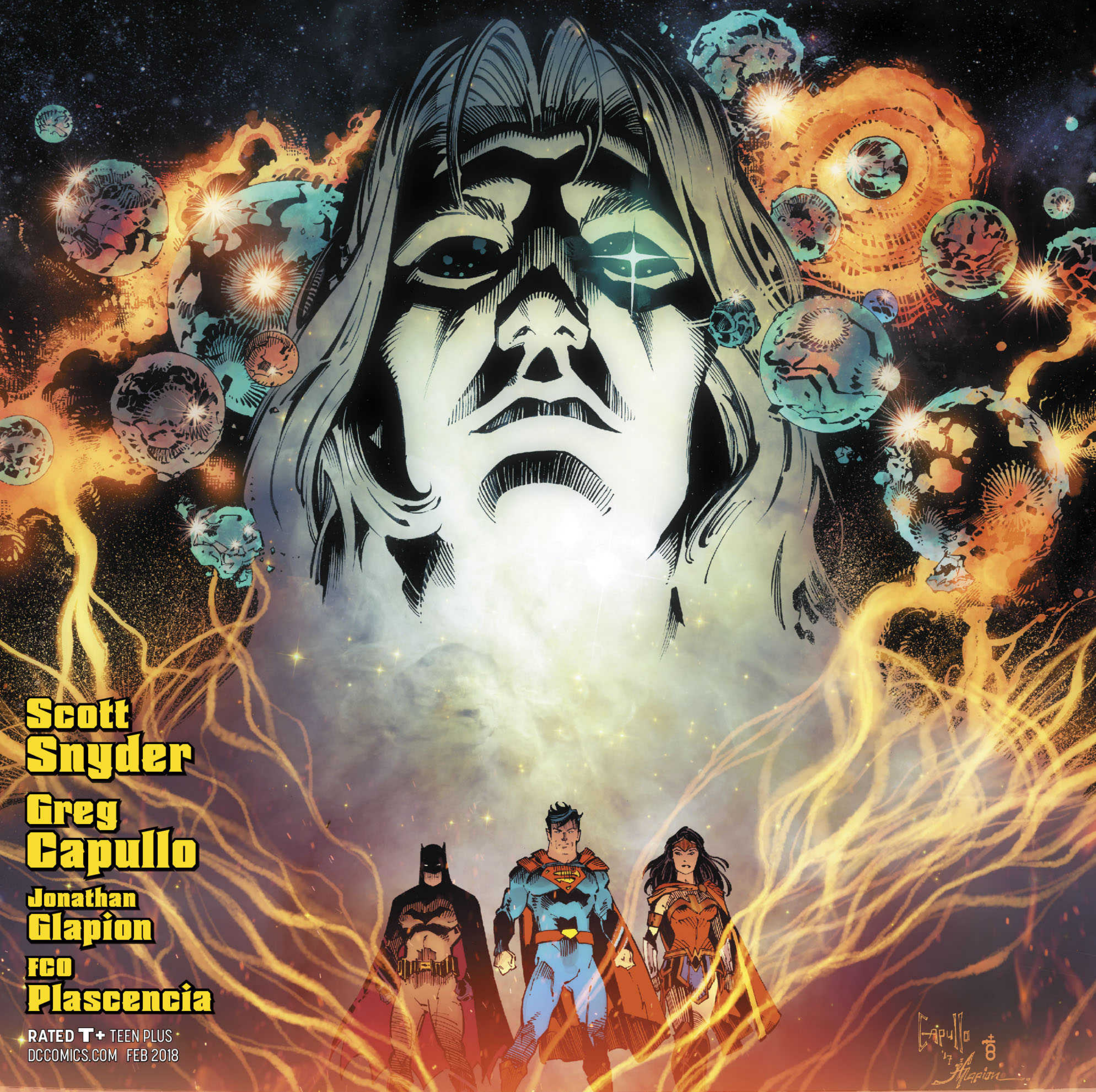




# DARK NIGHTS

4

# DEATH



**Scott  
Snyder**

**Greg  
Capullo**

**Jonathan  
Glapion**

**ICO  
Plascencia**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS  
DCCOMICS.COM FEB 2018

Capullo  
Glapion





# DARK NIGHTS

4

# METAL



**Scott  
Snyder**

**Greg  
Capullo**

**Jonathan  
Glapon**

**FCO  
Plascencia**

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JIM LEE  
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# DARK NIGHTS

4

# DEFIL



**Scott  
Snyder**  
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Capullo**  
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Glapion**  
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# DARK NIGHTS

4



**Scott  
Snyder**

**Greg  
Capullo**

**Jonathan  
Glapon**

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Once upon a time, there was a library full of stories that would never be told.

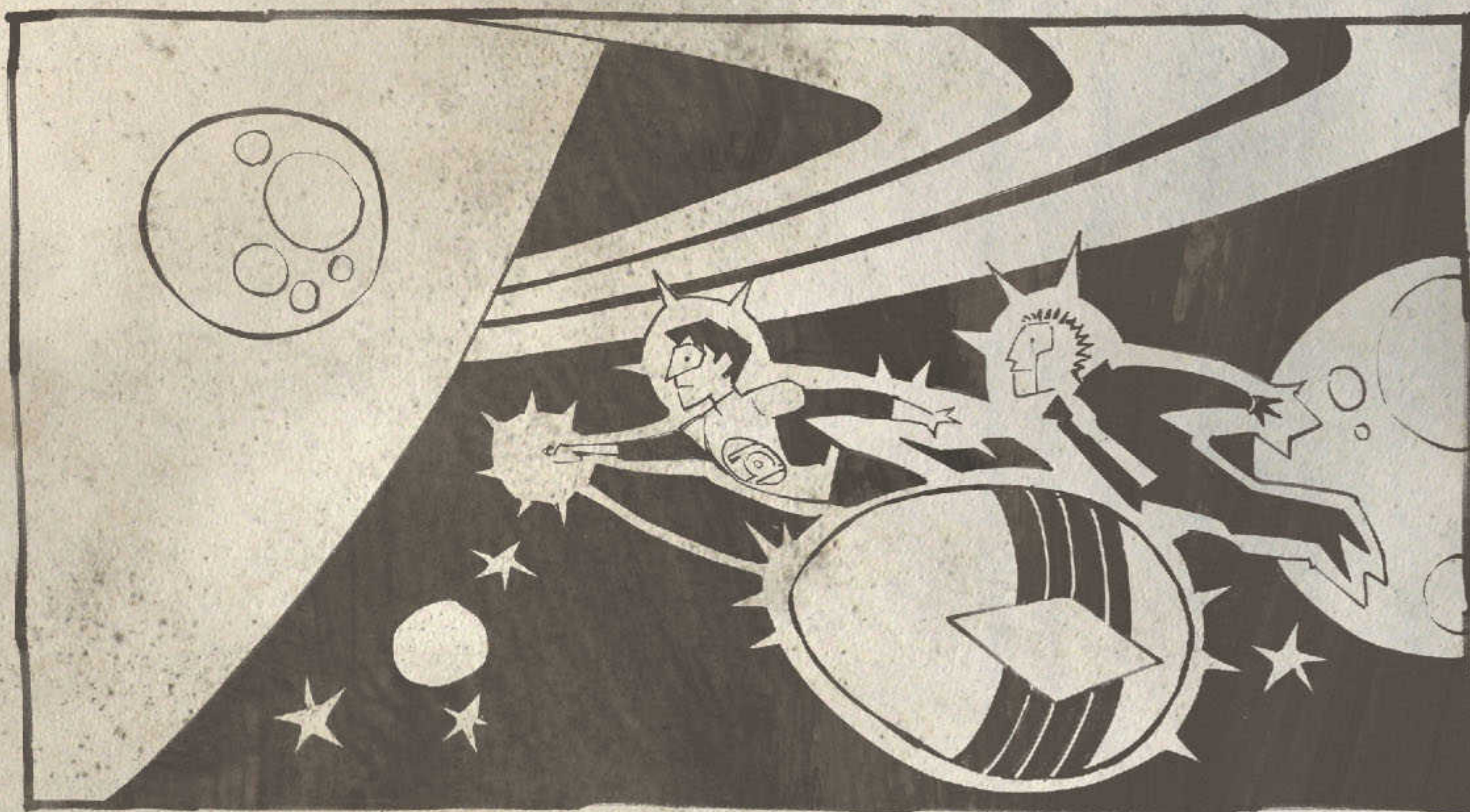
And so after battling the Dark Knights, and barely escaping with their lives, our heroes continue their search for the universe's last bits of Nth Metal, the only material that might be used to repel the World-Ender, Barbatos, and his evil paladins.



While the ones called Wonder Woman, Doctor Fate and Kendra Saunders make their way to the Rock of Eternity in search of the fabled Mace of Carter Hall, the Hawkman...



...the ocean king, Aquaman, and the mercenary Deathstroke venture to the ancient and forbidden burial grounds of Atlantis, where a trove of Nth Metal is said to be hidden.



Meanwhile, the galactic guardian Green Lantern, the cosmic scientist Mr. Terrific, and Plastic...egg... seek Nth Metal on the hidden planet of Thanagar Prime...



...as the speedmaster Flash and the mysterious and powerful Cyborg search the multiverse for help.

They are hopeful, these heroes, and formidable, but there is something dark they do not know.

**Impossible** stories destined only to happen in dream, or in nightmare.

Should any of these stories be spoken, let alone actually occur...

...the whole library will **burn**...



...and the world will likely burn with it.

## THE DARK MULTIVERSE.

COME ON,  
OLD FRIEND.  
IT'S TIME.

NO  
MORE...  
PLEASE...

EASY,  
BRUCE.  
WE'RE HERE  
TO SAVE  
YOU.

NO...YOU...  
YOU'RE NOT  
CLARK, YOU'RE  
HIS--

HIS NIGHTMARES?  
LIKE WHAT IF HE FINALLY  
KILLED YOU AND TOOK YOUR  
MANTLE AND IT JUST  
FELT...SO GOOD?

THE GOOD NEWS IS,  
YOU'RE NO LONGER **NEEDED**  
HERE. YOU LURED SUPERMAN,  
SO HE COULD BECOME THE  
**GREAT BATTERY**. NOW  
YOUR WORLD IS SINKING  
TOWARD US.

SOON IT'LL BE  
LOW ENOUGH THAT WE  
CAN TRAVEL THROUGH  
AND **CLAIM** IT.

WE CAN  
NOW TAKE YOU  
TO **DEEPER**  
**CORNERS** OF  
THIS REALM,  
FAR FROM  
HERE...

...AND FROM  
**YOUR CLARK.**

NOW COME  
ALONG, PA WAYNE,  
IT'S TIME TO GO  
GENTLY INTO THAT  
GOOD KNIGHT.

LIKE  
HELL IT  
IS!





THE REAL CLARK NEVER HAD ANY *IMAGINATION* FOR WEAPONS. IF YOU'RE HIS FEAR OF ME, THEN YOUR TECH IS BASED ON WHAT HE SAW IN *MY* CAVE.

AND I KNOW MY OWN *DAMN* TOYS WHEN I SEE THEM.

I CALL THIS GAUNTLET "FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH." IT HAS EVERY COLOR *KRYPTONITE* FROM GOLD TO PERIWINKLE. I THINK ONE OF THEM MAKES YOU SPARKLY. ANOTHER MAKES YOUR FLESH DISSOLVE.

I BARELY REMEMBER. SO I GUESS THE QUESTION IS, HOW *SUPER* ARE YOU FEELING TODAY, FARM BOYS?

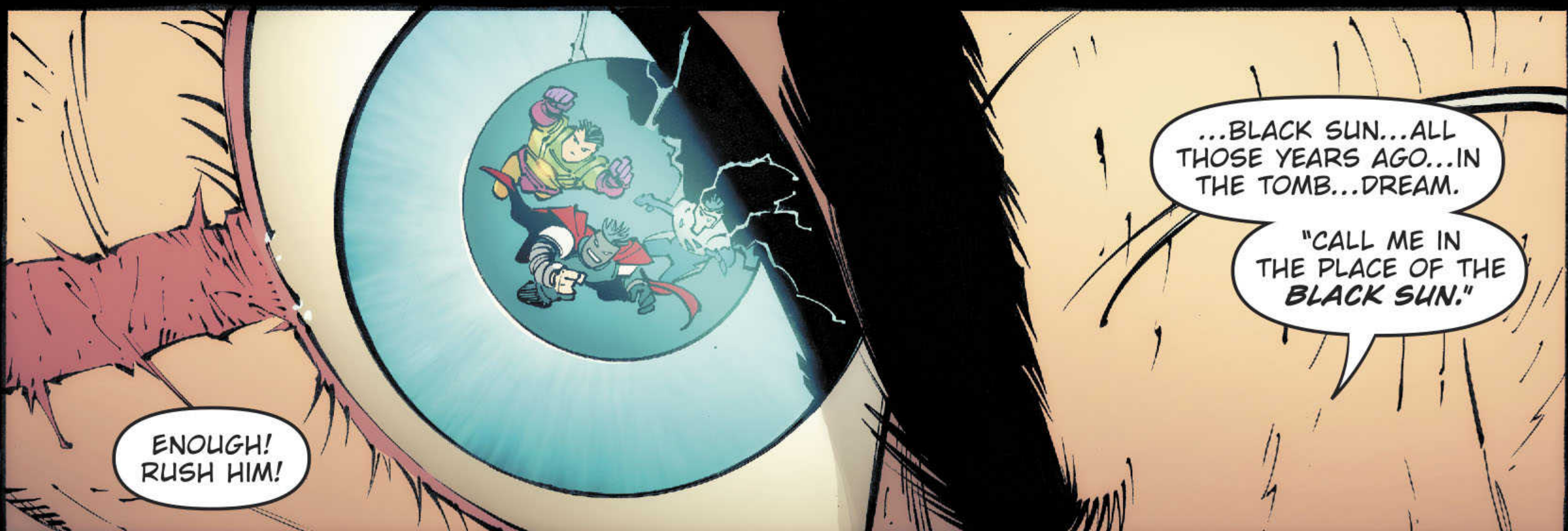
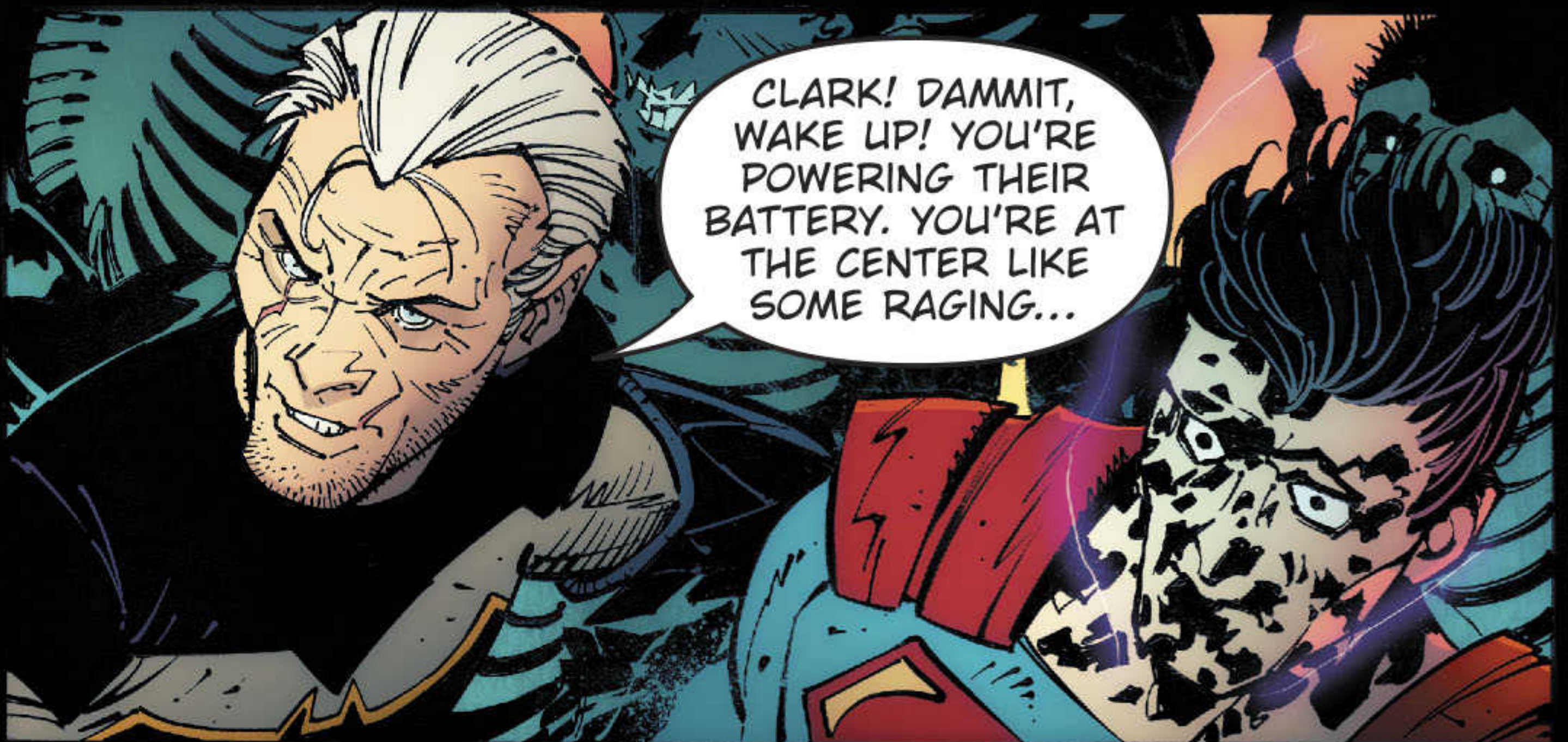


ANYTHING YOU USE WILL AFFECT YOUR CLARK, TOO. YOU WOULDN'T--

I'VE BEEN LOCKED IN A NIGHTMARE FOR *THIRTY* YEARS. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'D DO.



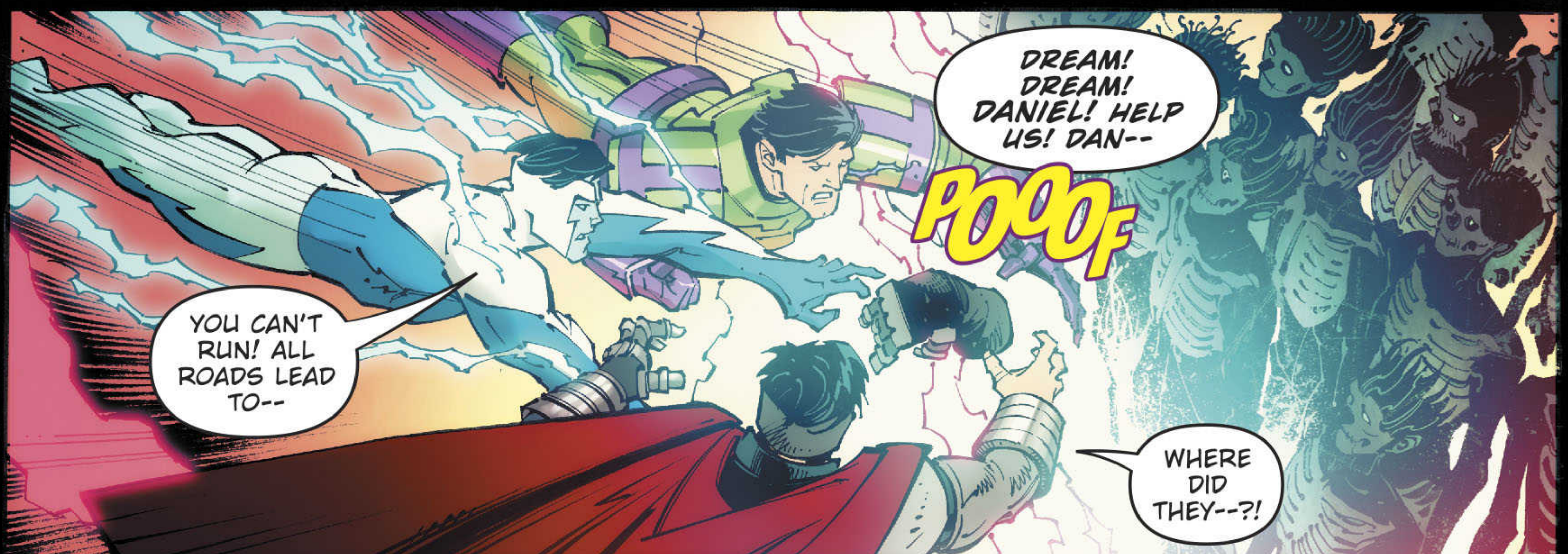
CLARK! DAMMIT, WAKE UP! YOU'RE POWERING THEIR BATTERY. YOU'RE AT THE CENTER LIKE SOME RAGING...



ENOUGH! RUSH HIM!

...BLACK SUN...ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...IN THE TOMB...DREAM.

"CALL ME IN THE PLACE OF THE *BLACK SUN*."



DREAM! DREAM! DANIEL! HELP US! DAN--

*POOF*

YOU CAN'T RUN! ALL ROADS LEAD TO--

WHERE DID THEY--?!



**THE ROCK OF ETERNITY,  
COSMIC CENTER OF  
THE MULTIVERSE.**

FATE! WHAT  
MONSTERS ARE  
THESE?

YOU SHALL  
NOT PASS!

THE ROCK IS  
PROTECTED!

THEY'RE THE  
ANCIENT GUARDIANS OF  
THIS PLACE, WONDER WOMAN!  
THE PERSONIFICATIONS OF THE  
**SEVEN SINS**. WRATH,  
GLUTTONY, SLOTH, AVAR--

PUSHING NUNS  
DOWN STAIRS,  
GYM SELFIES. WE  
GET IT! JUST  
TAKE THEM OUT  
ALREADY!

WHY  
ARE THEY  
ATTACKING  
US?!

I DO NOT  
KNOW...THEY SHOULD  
BE *WELCOMING* US,  
GIVEN OUR MISSION.  
SOMETHING IS NOT  
RIGHT!

OH, SOMETHING'S WRONG  
WITH THE MISSION? *HUGE*  
SURPRISE! LET ME ASK THIS ONE  
WHAT THIS ISSUE IS.

ENOUGH,  
KENDRA!

**BAM  
BAM**



YOU NEVER SUPPORTED THE LEAGUE'S PLAN TO COLLECT THE LAST BITS OF NTH METAL, SO *WHY* ARE YOU *HERE*?!

I SENSE A DARK, UNKNOWN *PRESENCE* HERE.

YOU WILL LEAVE! THE...

I WARNED YOU THIS WAS A MISTAKE, BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN!

BY THE GODS, KENDRA, THE ONLY TRUE MISTAKE WE CAN MAKE IS *NOT TRUSTING* EACH OTHER!

YOU NEED TO OPEN...

THUNK

...UP!

...ROCK IS... SACRED...

I COULD USE THE LASSO. BUT WE ARE YOUR *FRIENDS*. WHY ARE YOU SO SURE WE'LL FAIL?

LOOK... THIS PLACE. CARTER LEFT FROM HERE WHEN HE VENTURED INTO THE DARK. THE NTH METAL HERE, IT'S PROBABLY HIS *MACE*.

YOUR BLACKHAWKS SOUGHT TO DESTROY ALL NTH METAL YET YOU NEVER CAME FOR HIS *MACE*?

I...WAS AFRAID. CARTER *REFUSED* TO BELIEVE THE DARK WAS EVIL.

ME...I *KNEW*. IT'S AS IF...*BARBATOS* IS IN MY BONES. TELLING ME...ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO DARKNESS.

I COULDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE IF I WAS RIGHT...

WHATEVER TRUTH IS HERE, KENDRA, WE'LL FACE IT *TOGETHER*. I PROMISE.

WONDER WOMAN, WE'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING.

AQUAMAN? YOU FOUND THE NTH METAL?

NO. WE FOUND...



# OUTSKIRTS OF ATLANTIS.



...A MURDER.

(MER-DER. TO BE SPECIFIC.)

STORM, IMP, STAY. DEATHSTROKE, COME.

WE STAND ON THE ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND OF ATLANTIS' FIRST KING, ARION.



IT IS SACRED, AND FORBIDDEN TO ALL.

THESE GUARDS WERE TRAINED FROM BIRTH TO PROTECT IT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED A NEW TRAINER.



YOU THERE!

MY LIEGE!

YOUR KIND WAS CHOSEN FOR ITS DEEP-SEA VISION, ANGLER. SO WHAT DID YOU SEE?

DARKNESS, MY KING...THEY BLINDED US...WHO WOULD DO THIS?...TOMB IS SACRED...HOLY...DIVINE...IT IS--



WHOOOPS.

POSEIDON'S BEARD!



YOU **BASTARD!** DID YOU NOT LISTEN?! ANYONE WHO TOUCHES THE TOMB IS **BANNED** FROM ATLANTIS FOREVER!

SUE ME, SCALES. I DON'T SPEAK **FISH**. NOW BEFORE YOU **HARPOON** ME, TAKE A LOOK.

GODS...A PORTAL?

I CAN SENSE THE NTH METAL DOWN THERE, TOO. TIME TO SINK TO **NEW DEPTHS**, EH?

DIANA, WE WILL BE GOING...**OFF COMMUNICATION** FOR A WHILE.



GODSPEED, AQUAMAN. GREEN LANTERN, HAVE YOU REACHED THANAGAR PRIME?





THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED. WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MEET THE **HIGH RULER** TO REQUEST WHATEVER NTH METAL IS HERE.

GET IT. AT ALL COSTS.

ROGER. LANTERN OUT.

## THANAGAR PRIME.

BASED ON MY STUDIES, THANAGARIAN CULTURE IS HIGHLY **TRANSACTIONAL**. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.

GREAT. I'LL JUST TELL THEM I LAID THIS **EGG**. THAT SHOULD IMPRESS THEM.

WHAT I STILL DON'T GET IS HOW I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE. THIS IS **MY JOB**, MR. TERRIFIC.

IT'S WHAT WE CALL A **PHASED PRESENCE**, BUILT ON ZOMBIE STAR-GAS. THIS PLACE EXISTS AT MULTIPLE COORDINATES AT ONCE.

WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION, WHAT THE HELL ELSE AREN'T THE GUARDIANS TELLING ME?

IT FEELS LIKE PART OF A STORY I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND.

I'VE STUDIED THE MULTIVERSE FOR YEARS, AND IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING, IT'S THAT EVERY COSMIC **ANSWER** LEADS TO ANOTHER **QUESTION**. INSTEAD OF FEELING BIGGER, REAL SCIENCE MAKES US FEEL **SMALLER**. AND THAT'S A **GOOD THING**.

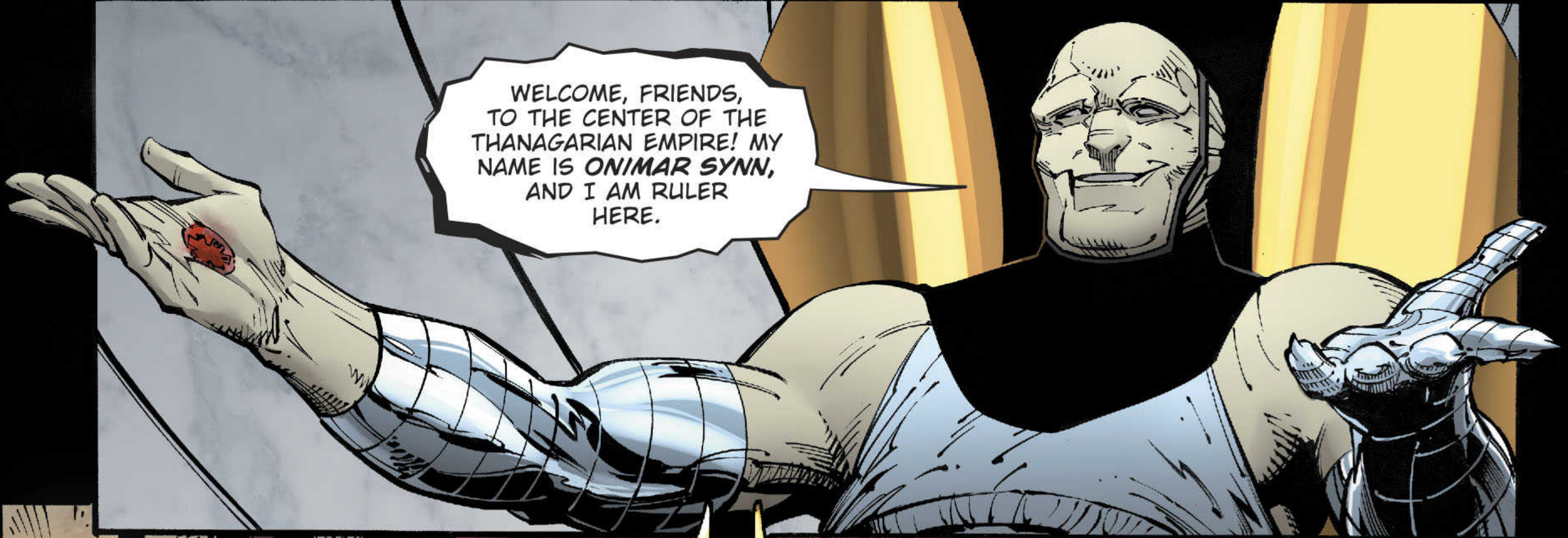
WELL, I'VE BEEN A **SPACE COP** FOR YEARS. AND IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING IT'S THAT THE BEST ANSWERS LEAD TO RESULTS.

AND THE **RESULT** WE NEED IS A CRAP TON OF NTH METAL. SO LET'S FIND WHOEVER RUNS THIS PLACE AND--

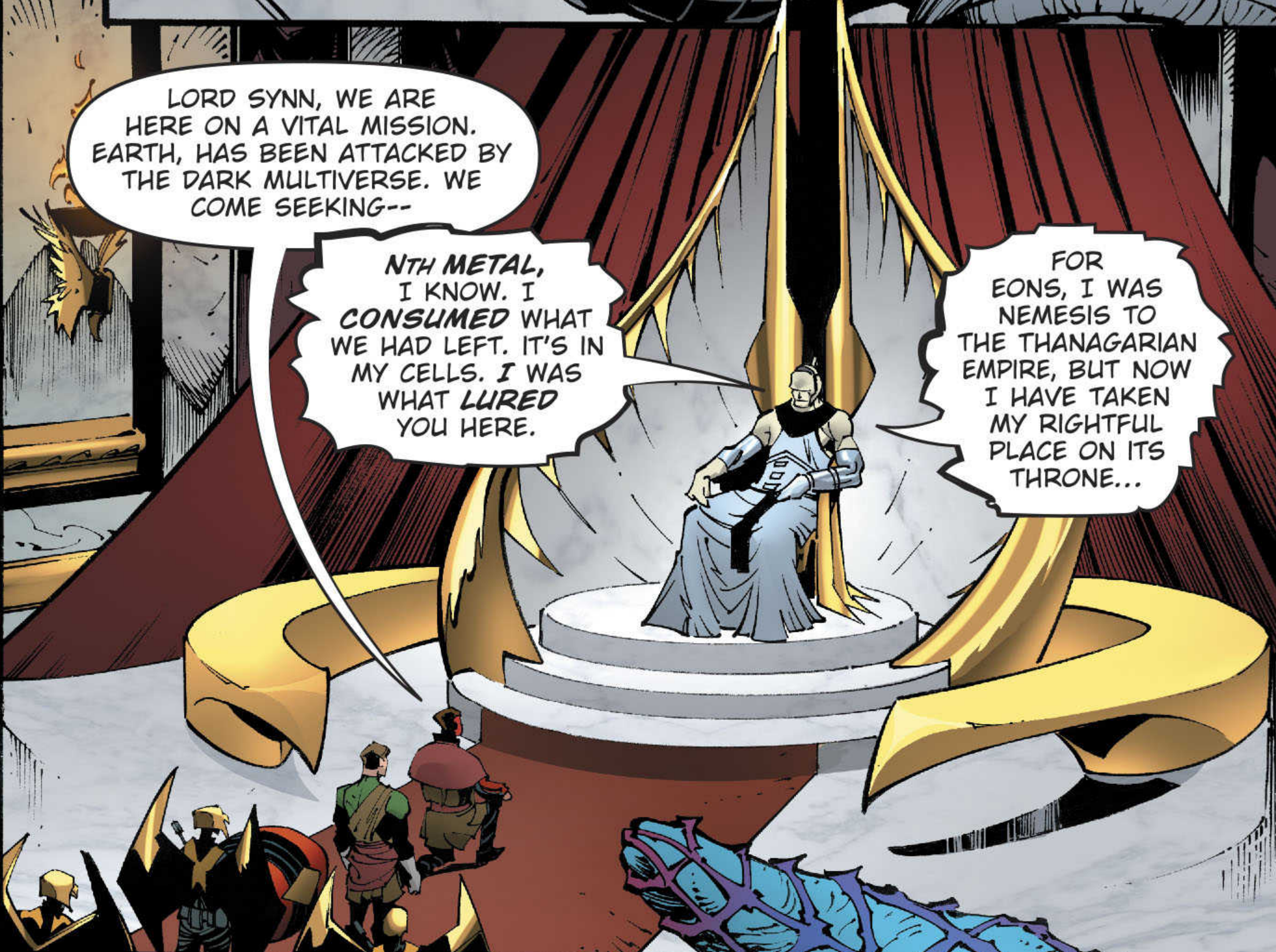
THAT WOULD BE ME!







WELCOME, FRIENDS,  
TO THE CENTER OF THE  
THANAGARIAN EMPIRE! MY  
NAME IS **ONIMAR SYN**N,  
AND I AM RULER  
HERE.

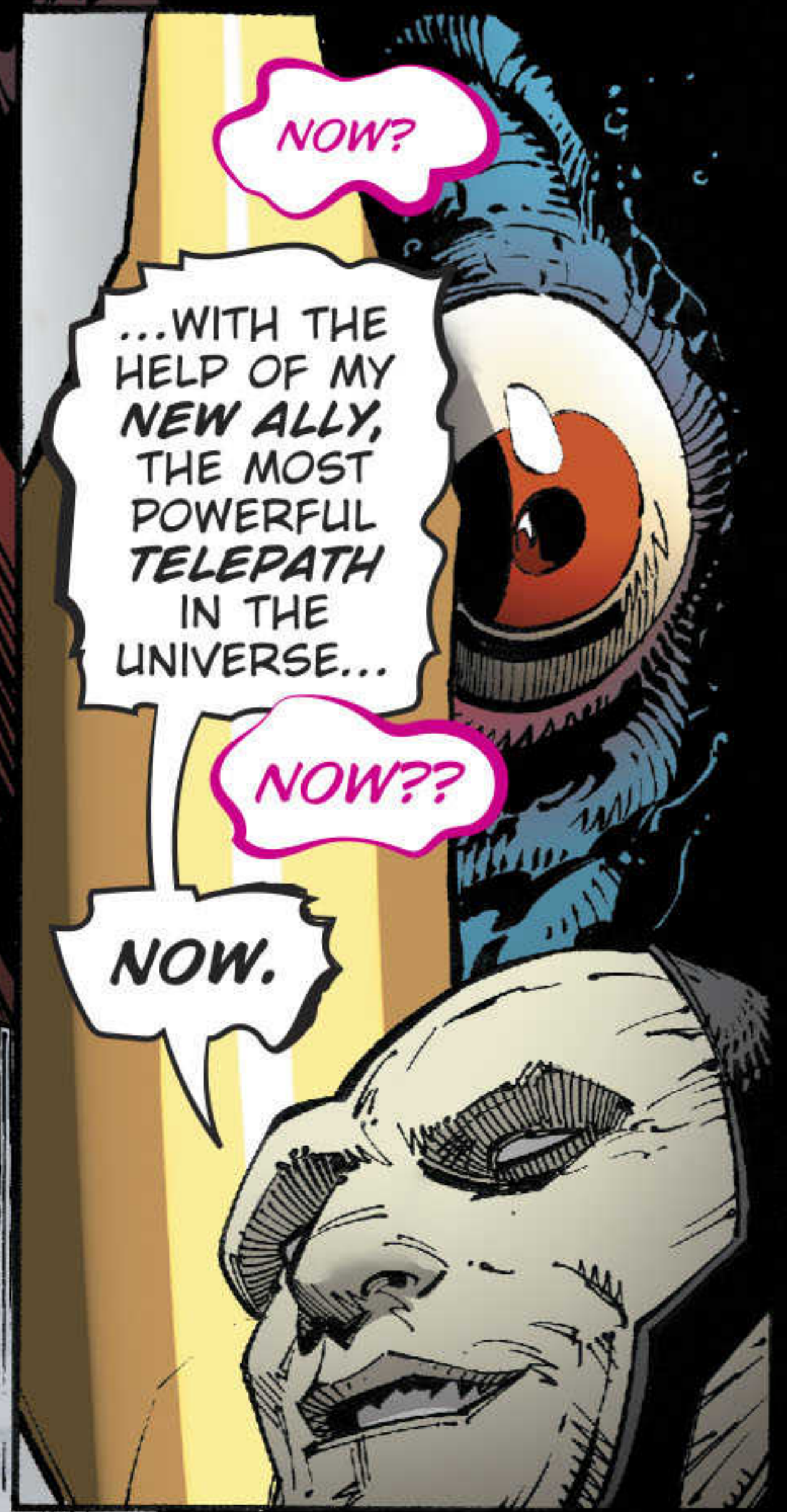


LORD SYN

N, WE ARE  
HERE ON A VITAL MISSION.  
EARTH, HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY  
THE DARK MULTIVERSE. WE  
COME SEEKING--

NTH METAL,  
I KNOW. I  
**CONSUMED** WHAT  
WE HAD LEFT. IT'S IN  
MY CELLS. I WAS  
WHAT **LURED**  
YOU HERE.

FOR  
EONS, I WAS  
NEMESIS TO  
THE THANAGARIAN  
EMPIRE, BUT NOW  
I HAVE TAKEN  
MY RIGHTFUL  
PLACE ON ITS  
THRONE...

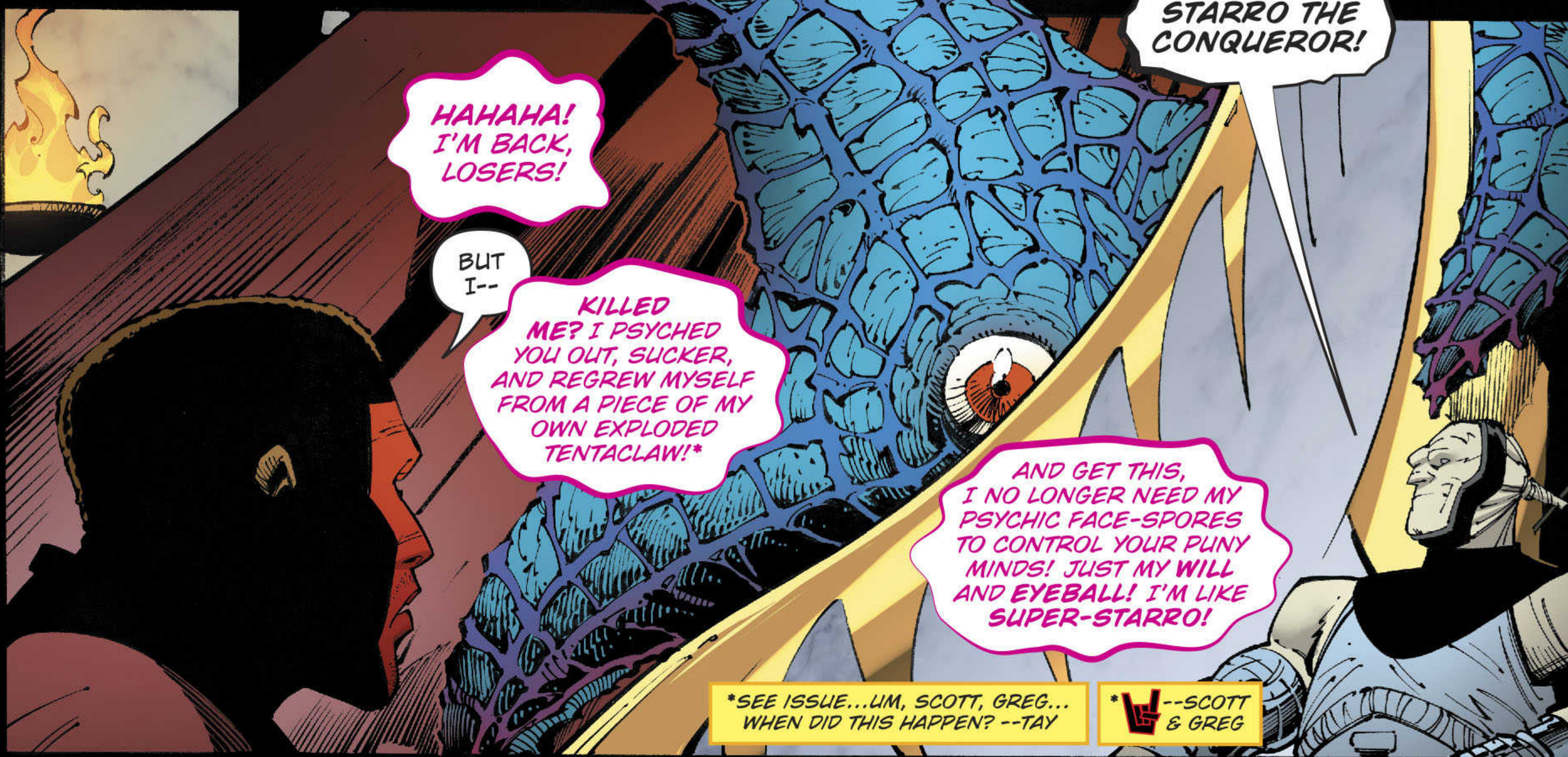


NOW?

...WITH THE  
HELP OF MY  
**NEW ALLY**,  
THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
**TELEPATH**  
IN THE  
UNIVERSE...

NOW??

NOW.



HAHAHA!  
I'M BACK,  
LOSERS!

BUT  
I--

KILLED  
ME? I PSYCHED  
YOU OUT, SUCKER,  
AND REGREW MYSELF  
FROM A PIECE OF MY  
OWN EXPLODED  
TENTACLAU!\*

STARRO THE  
CONQUEROR!

AND GET THIS,  
I NO LONGER NEED MY  
PSYCHIC FACE-SPORES  
TO CONTROL YOUR PUNY  
MINDS! JUST MY WILL  
AND EYEBALL! I'M LIKE  
**SUPER-STARRO!**

\*SEE ISSUE...UM, SCOTT, GREG...  
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? --TAY

\*--SCOTT  
& GREG



LORD SYN

N, IGNORE  
THIS PSYCHOPATH AND  
LISTEN TO US! IF BARBATOS  
SINKS THE EARTH, EVERY-  
THING WILL GO WITH IT,  
**INCLUDING YOU!**



HEH.  
SEE, THAT'S  
WHERE YOU'RE  
**WRONG...**





THE THANAGARIANS HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE DARK FOR EONS. IT'S WHY THEY'VE WATCHED YOU SO CLOSELY FROM THIS INVISIBLE PERCH, AND WHY THEY CONSTRUCTED *THIS*...

...THE PHOENIX CANNON. FUELED BY SUPER-METALS, IT'S CAPABLE OF RAISING THE EARTH SHOULD THE LEGIONS OF THE DARK EVER COME FOR THE PLANET. IT'S LOCKED ON TO EARTH'S CORE, AND NEVER CHANGES TARGET.

EVER.

WHEN I FIRST TOOK THIS THRONE, I CONSIDERED USING THE CANNON TO *DESTROY* YOUR HOME ONCE AND FOR ALL. BUT NOW...NOW I'VE DECIDED ON A MUCH *BIGGER* PURPOSE FOR IT.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THE *FINAL* PIECE I NEEDED.

TAKE THEM! GRAB THE EGG!

GET OFF ME! RING, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH--

IT'S NOT YOUR RING THAT'S THE PROBLEM, CHUMP!

IT'S YOUR STUPID BRAIN...

...I'VE SLOWED THE SYNAPSES IN YOUR FRONTAL CORTEX. YOU CAN'T EVEN CREATE A FULL TRAIN OF THOUGHT ANYMORE, YOU IDIOT! JUST TRY!

IMPOSSIBLE! MY WILL IS STRONGER THAN...

I MEAN, I'M GOING TO...

WAIT, WHAT WAS I...

"WHAT'S HAPPENING?"



BRUCE...  
ARE YOU THERE?  
WHERE ARE  
WE?

I'M HERE.  
I...I THINK  
WE'RE LOST IN  
THE DARK.

No...

...you are  
not lost.

YOU!

DO YOU  
REALIZE HOW LONG  
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED  
HERE? YOU DID  
NOTHING TO STOP  
ANY OF THIS FROM  
HAPPENING!

WHY HELP  
NOW? WHY NOT  
LEAVE US IN THE  
DARK IF YOU CARE  
SO LITTLE...

Do not  
presume you  
know what I do  
or do not care  
about.

I am **Daniel**,  
called **the Lord  
Shaper**, the  
**Dreamweaver**, the  
**King of the Riddle  
Realms**.

Some  
of your kind  
have called me **the  
Sandman**. Others,  
**the Prince of  
Stories**.

**And** this  
story is **far**  
more personal to  
me than you  
understand.





WHERE DID HE...WHAT...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

I...DON'T KNOW...

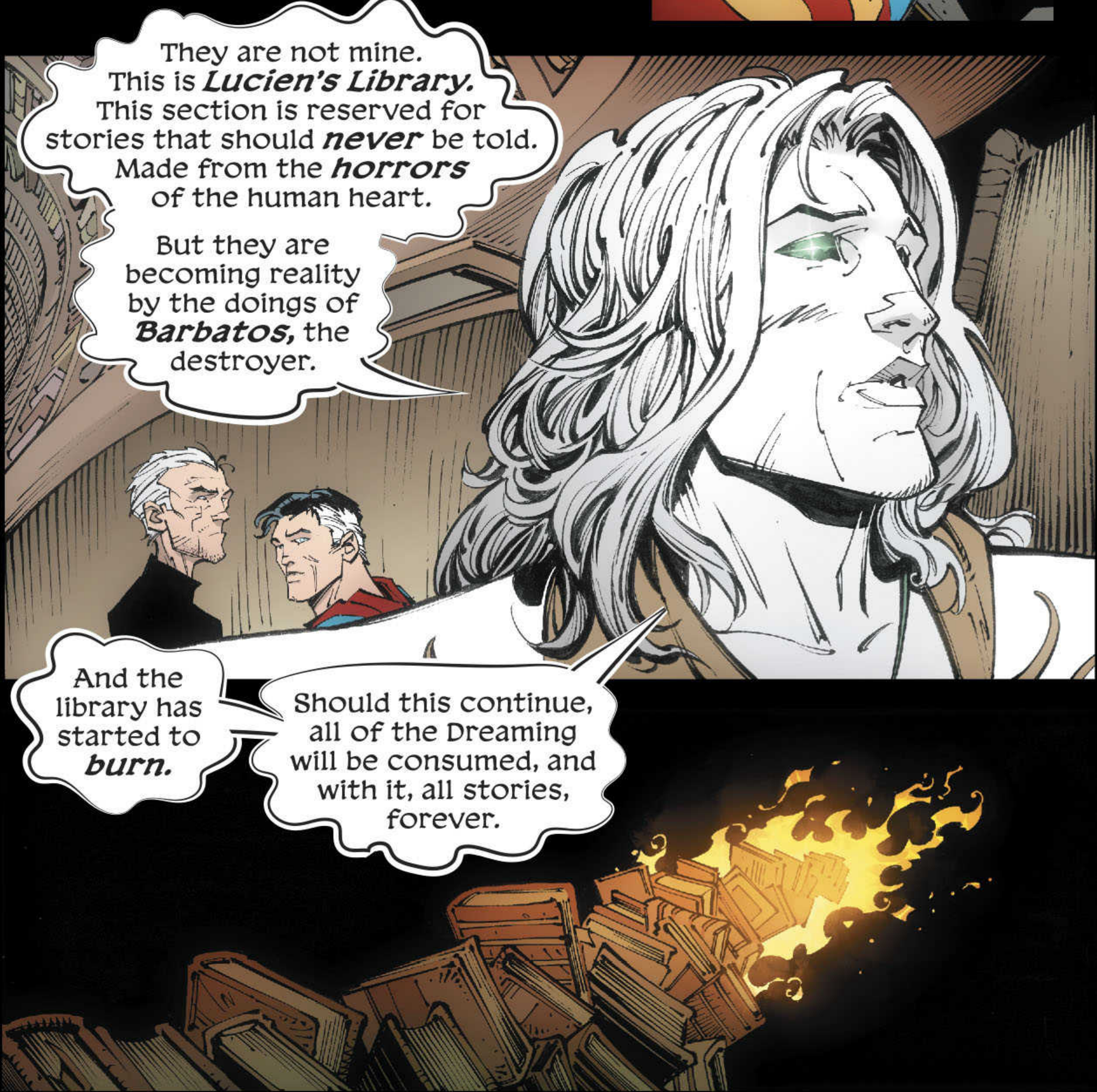


IT FEELS SO ALIEN, YET SO... FAMILIAR?



That is because you have been here many times before.  
Every night, when you sleep, you walk through my domain. This is *the Dreaming*. This is my home.

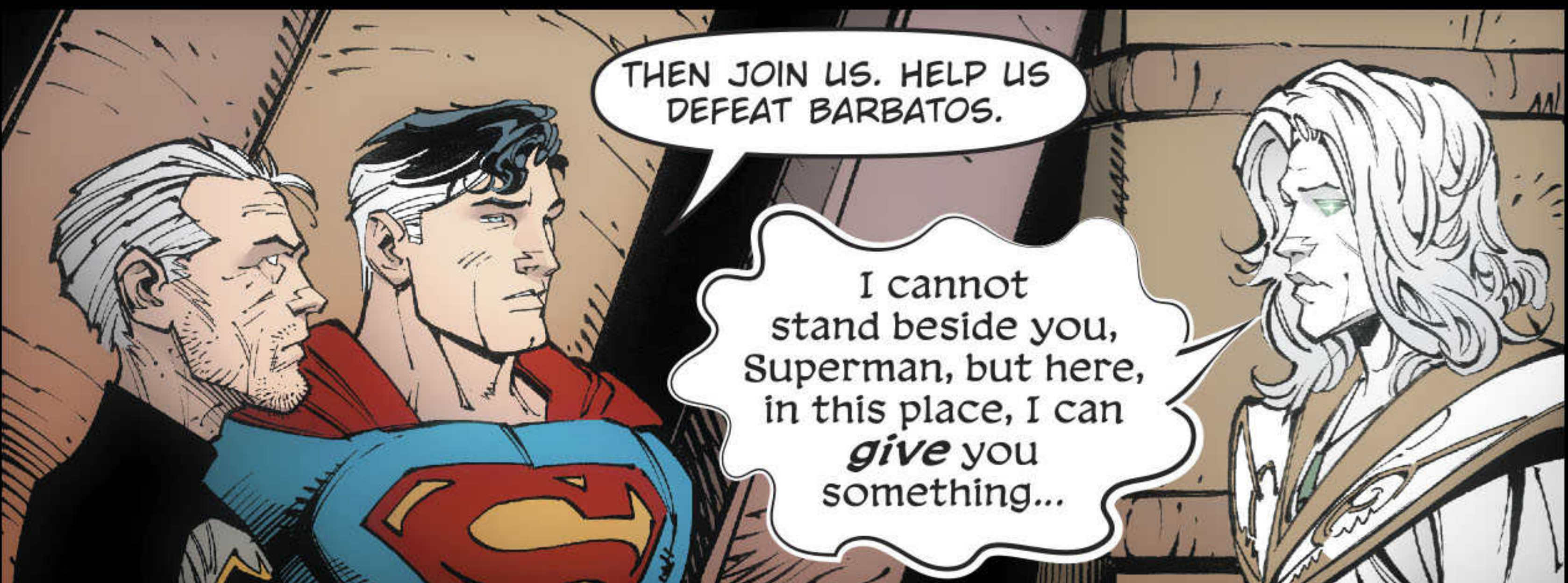
THESE BOOKS... WHAT ARE THEY?



They are not mine. This is *Lucien's Library*. This section is reserved for stories that should *never* be told. Made from the *horrors* of the human heart.  
But they are becoming reality by the doings of *Barbatos*, the destroyer.

And the library has started to *burn*.

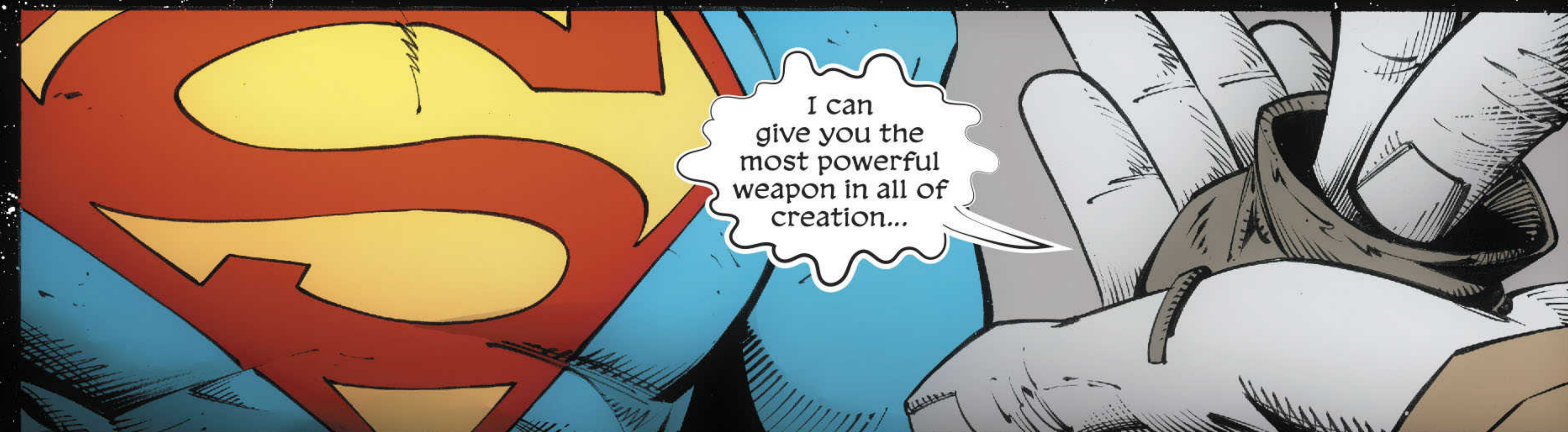
Should this continue, all of the Dreaming will be consumed, and with it, all stories, forever.



THEN JOIN US. HELP US DEFEAT BARBATOS.

I cannot stand beside you, Superman, but here, in this place, I can *give* you something...

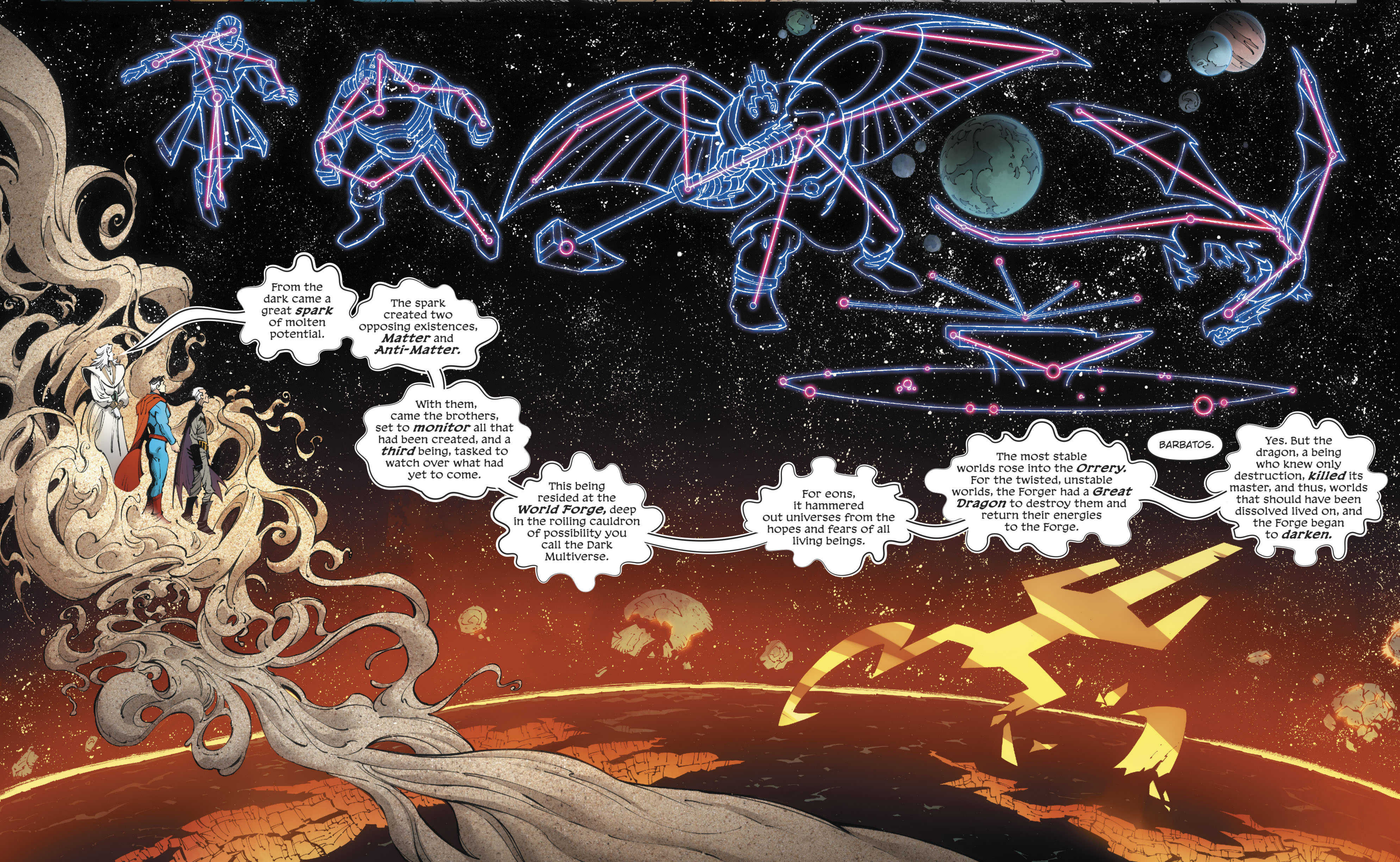




I can give you the most powerful weapon in all of creation...



I can give you... a *story*.



From the dark came a great *spark* of molten potential.

The spark created two opposing existences, *Matter* and *Anti-Matter*.

With them, came the brothers, set to *monitor* all that had been created, and a *third* being, tasked to watch over what had yet to come.

This being resided at the *World Forge*, deep in the roiling cauldron of possibility you call the Dark Multiverse.

For eons, it hammered out universes from the hopes and fears of all living beings.

The most stable worlds rose into the *Orrery*. For the twisted, unstable worlds, the Forger had a *Great Dragon* to destroy them and return their energies to the Forge.

BARBATOS.

Yes. But the dragon, a being who knew only destruction, *killed* its master, and thus, worlds that should have been dissolved lived on, and the Forge began to *darken*.



If there is any hope left, it lies at the World Forge, with the last pure, bright metal of possibility, before the fires go dark forever.

Barbatos desires to pull all worlds into the dark, and he is **winning**. Removing Superman from the dark towers stopped Earth from sinking, but it lies at the edge of the cosmic membrane.

Any further and Barbatos will be able to bring forth all the nightmares of the Dark Multiverse.

SO THE NTH METAL WE NEED IS AT THE WORLD FORGE?

The metal of the Forge is **far** more powerful.

What you call Nth metal is but a strain, nearly pure--the **ninth** metal. The eighth, used by the Earth gods, is less so. And down from there. That is why it harms the dragon and its armies.

But they have a greater secret, a **cosmic being** to tip the balance further in their favor, and there is little time left.

WHAT IF BARBATOS HAS ALREADY TURNED THE FORGE DARK?

If it is fully dark... all is lost.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR. WE WON'T TURN BACK.

PLEASE, DREAM... DANIEL... CAN YOU HELP US?

I can create a **passage** for you, from this place. If you walk with **hope** and **wonder** in your heart, it will show you the center of creation...

If **not**, you will be **lost** in the infinite vastness of the Dark Multiverse... forever.

THANK YOU, DREAM.

COME ON, **BRUCE**, LET'S DO THIS.

CLARK... I... I CAN'T.

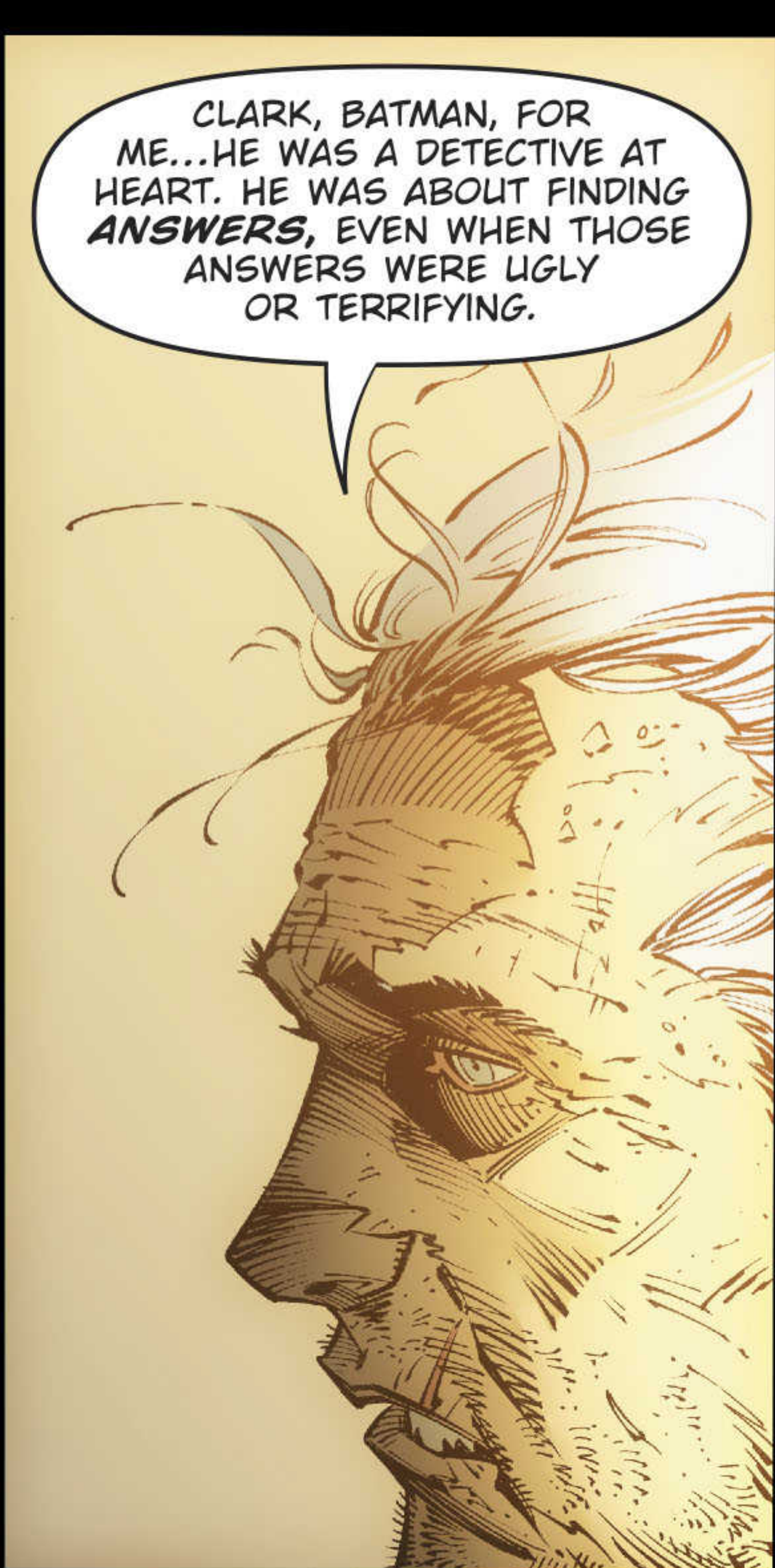




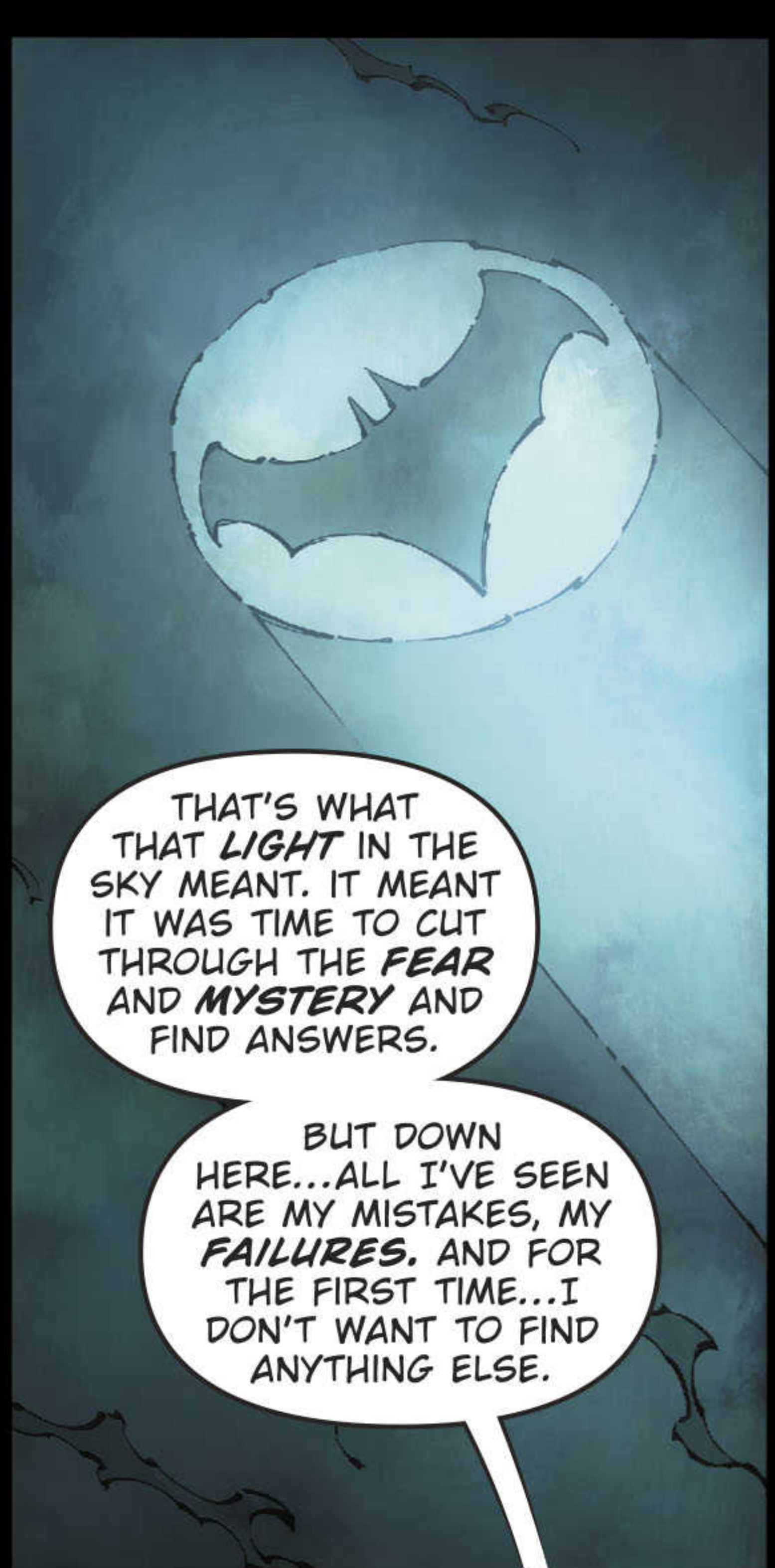
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOU CAN'T?

DREAM SAID WE HAVE TO HAVE HOPE...WONDER... BUT I--

STOP IT.



CLARK, BATMAN, FOR ME...HE WAS A DETECTIVE AT HEART. HE WAS ABOUT FINDING **ANSWERS**, EVEN WHEN THOSE ANSWERS WERE UGLY OR TERRIFYING.



THAT'S WHAT THAT **LIGHT** IN THE SKY MEANT. IT MEANT IT WAS TIME TO CUT THROUGH THE **FEAR** AND **MYSTERY** AND FIND ANSWERS.

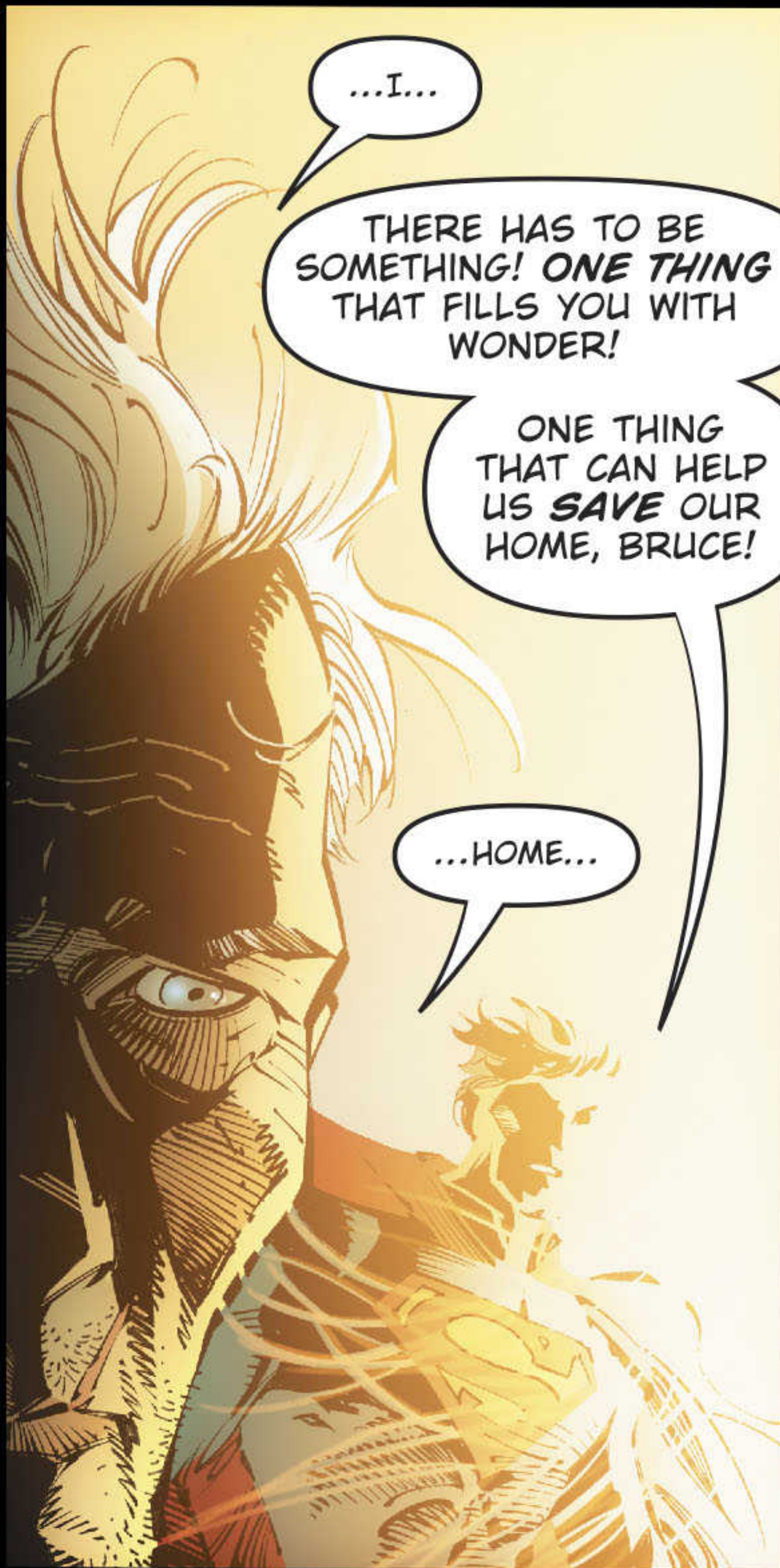
BUT DOWN HERE...ALL I'VE SEEN ARE MY MISTAKES, MY **FAILURES**. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME...I DON'T WANT TO FIND ANYTHING ELSE.



THAT'S WHAT IT **WANTS** YOU TO BELIEVE, BRUCE. IT'S A LIE! YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE DECADES, I KNOW, BELIEVE ME, BUT YOU **CAN'T** LET IT FOOL YOU!

YOU'RE **BATMAN**, DAMMIT. YOU GIVE **OTHERS** HOPE. THEY SEE YOU AND ARE **FILLED** WITH WONDER ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE.

NOW, **COME ON!** WE NEED TO FIND OUT IF THE FORGE IS STILL **BRIGHT!**

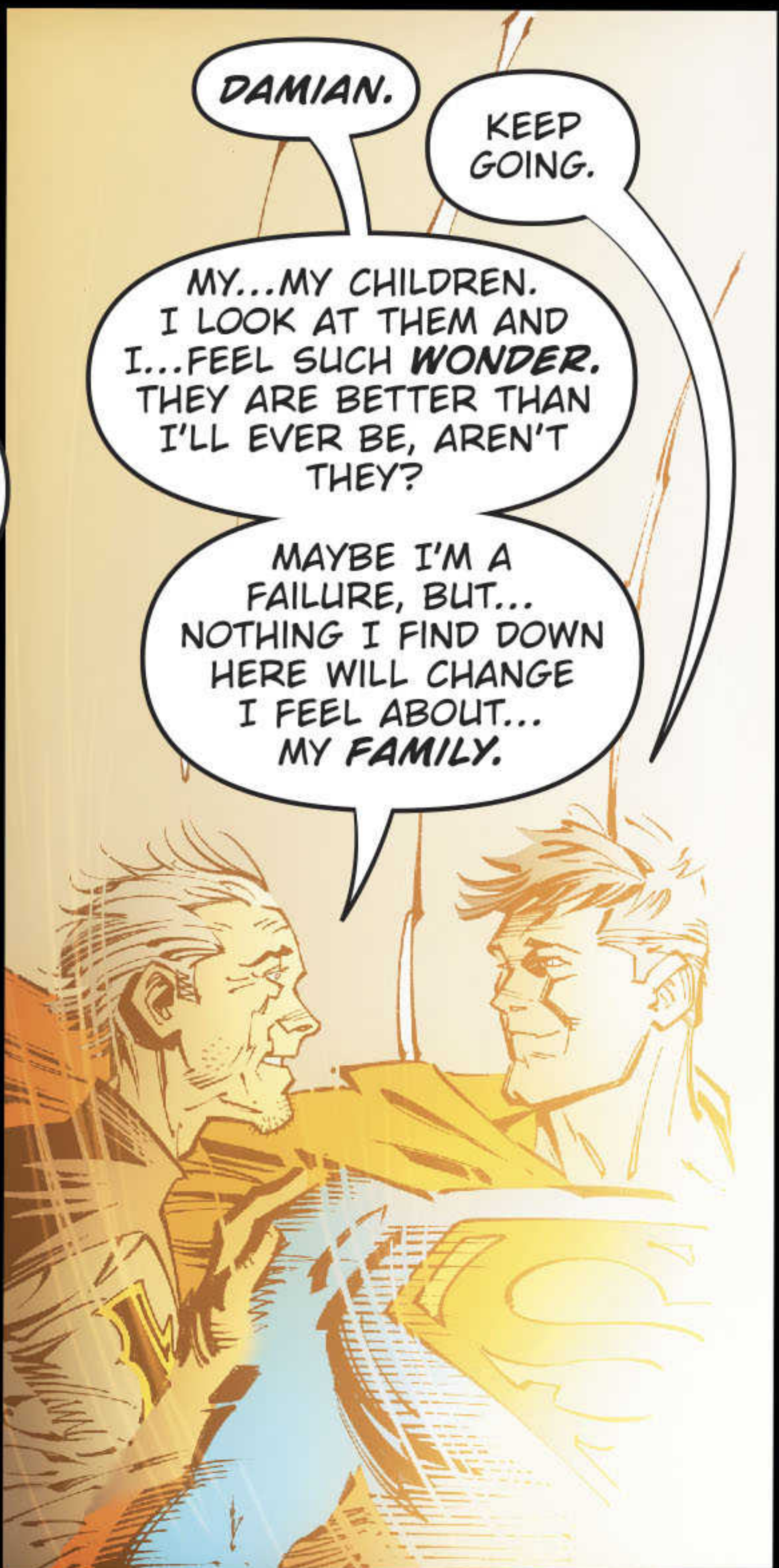


...I...

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING! **ONE THING** THAT FILLS YOU WITH WONDER!

ONE THING THAT CAN HELP US **SAVE** OUR HOME, BRUCE!

...HOME...



**DAMIAN.**

KEEP GOING.

MY...MY CHILDREN. I LOOK AT THEM AND I...FEEL SUCH **WONDER**. THEY ARE BETTER THAN I'LL EVER BE, AREN'T THEY?

MAYBE I'M A FAILURE, BUT... NOTHING I FIND DOWN HERE WILL CHANGE I FEEL ABOUT... MY **FAMILY**.



GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, OLD FRIEND.

DON'T GET SAPPY ON ME, KENT. I'M **BATMAN**. LET'S DO THIS THING.

YES, SIR.

"IS ANYONE OUT THERE?"

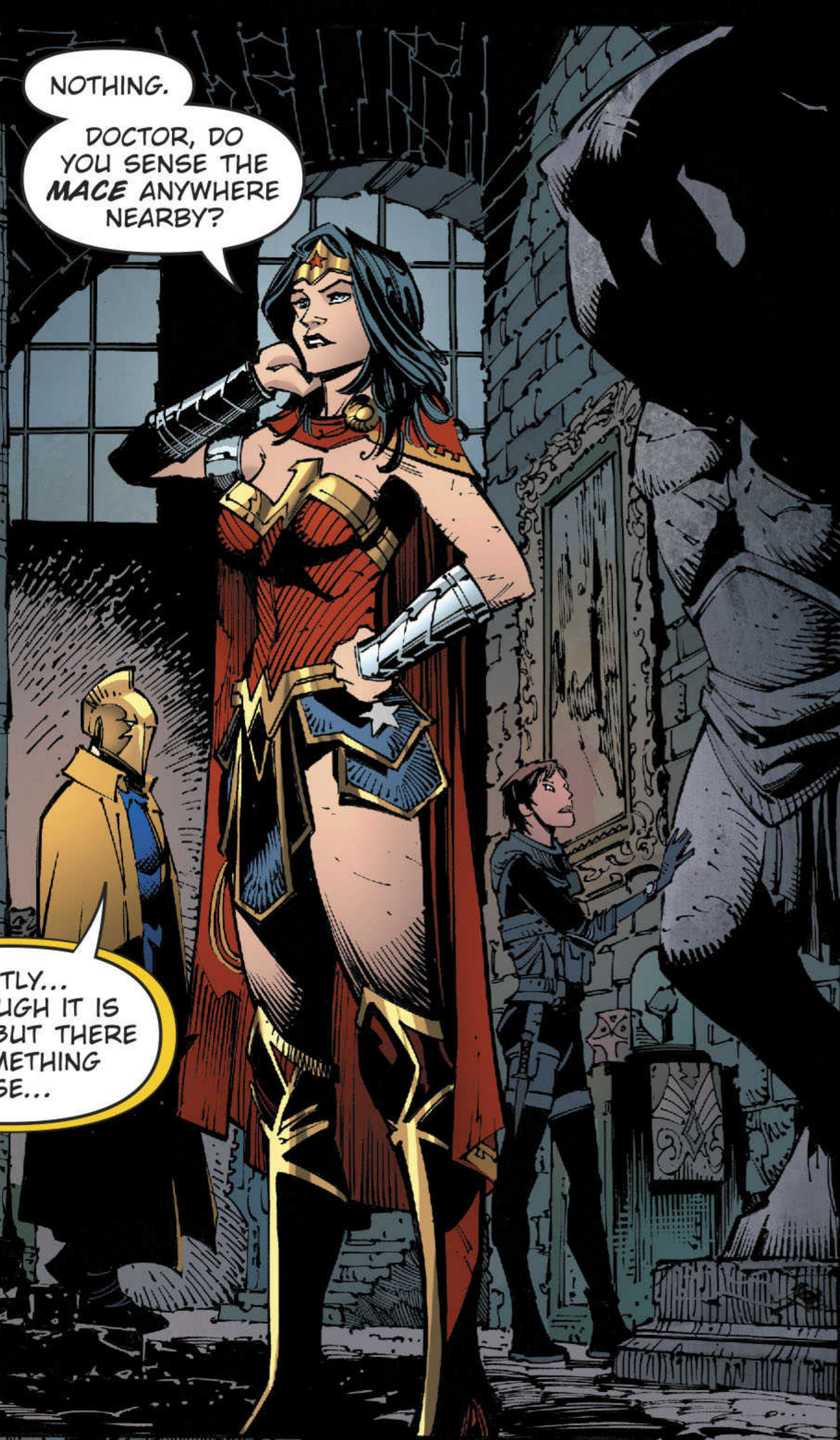




LANTERN?  
MR. TERRIFIC?



AQUAMAN!  
DEATHSTROKE?!  
COME IN!



NOTHING.

DOCTOR, DO  
YOU SENSE THE  
MACE ANYWHERE  
NEARBY?

FAINTLY...  
AS THOUGH IT IS  
HIDDEN. BUT THERE  
IS SOMETHING  
ELSE...



I FEEL IT,  
TOO. WHERE  
IS IT COMING  
FROM?



IT IS ON A COSMIC  
SCALE...CATASTROPHIC  
ENERGY. I FELT IT BEFORE,  
BUT IT IS STRONGER  
NOW.

IT MUST  
BE COMING  
FROM SOMETHING  
POWERFUL...  
OR...



...SOMEONE.



KENDRA.

WHAT ARE  
YOU--

IF ONLY  
YOU'D LISTENED  
TO ME, WONDER  
WOMAN...





NOW STAY BACK!



MY GOD...  
IT'S THE  
**ASTRAL BRAIN**  
OF THE ANTI-  
MONITOR! SHE HAS  
BROUGHT IT TO  
COMPRESSED  
FORM!

KENDRA,  
WHAT  
IS THAT  
THING?!

KENDRA! IF PURE  
ANTI-MATTER PASSES  
THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE'S  
CENTER AND HITS THE  
DARK MULTIVERSE, IT  
COULD--

**BLOW UP THE  
DARK ONCE AND  
FOR ALL!**

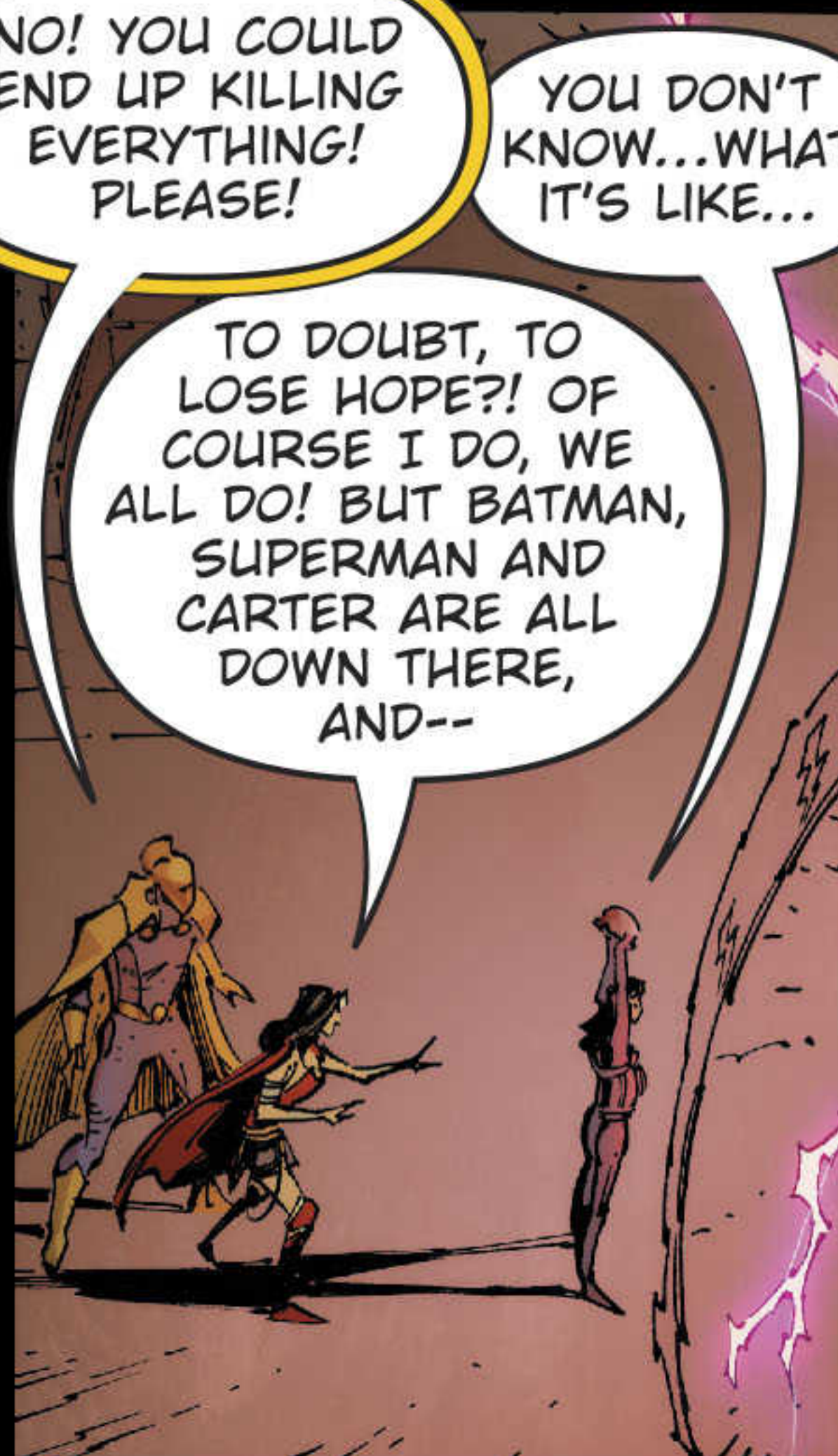


I KNOW.  
THE **COUNCIL  
OF IMMORTALS**  
ENTRUSTED ME...IT'S  
THE ONLY WAY TO  
BE SURE!

NO! YOU COULD  
END UP KILLING  
EVERYTHING!  
PLEASE!

YOU DON'T  
KNOW...WHAT  
IT'S LIKE...

TO DOUBT, TO  
LOSE HOPE?! OF  
COURSE I DO, WE  
ALL DO! BUT BATMAN,  
SUPERMAN AND  
CARTER ARE ALL  
DOWN THERE,  
AND--



NO!  
CARTER  
IS GONE!  
I HAVE  
TO--  
**AGH!**



KENDRA?! DOCTOR,  
WHAT'S **WRONG**  
WITH HER?!

**UHH! NO!  
THE PLAN.  
HAVE TO--  
ARGH!**



WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO  
**MEEEEEAAHH!**

**RRRIIPPP**





GREAT HERA...

KENDRA...



NO, NOT KENDRA.

I AM, LADY BLACKHAWK.



AND ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO DARKNESS.



NO! WE WILL SAVE YOU AND RIDE THE ANKH FROM HERE ON--

KEKAKKOOOIM

RIDE THIS.





THERE  
WILL BE NO  
SAVING ANYONE  
TODAY.

BLACK  
ADAM?!  
BUT WHY--

I AM ONE OF THE  
IMMORTALS, AS WAS  
KENDRA. I HAVE LIVED  
LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW  
THEIR PLAN STANDS NO  
CHANCE AGAINST FORCES  
OF THE DARK.

SO VANDAL  
SAVAGE AND I MADE  
OUR OWN DEAL WITH  
BARBATOS.

NOW GIVE  
ME THE BRAIN,  
AND I WILL MAKE  
THIS PAINLESS.  
ALMOST.

NEVER!

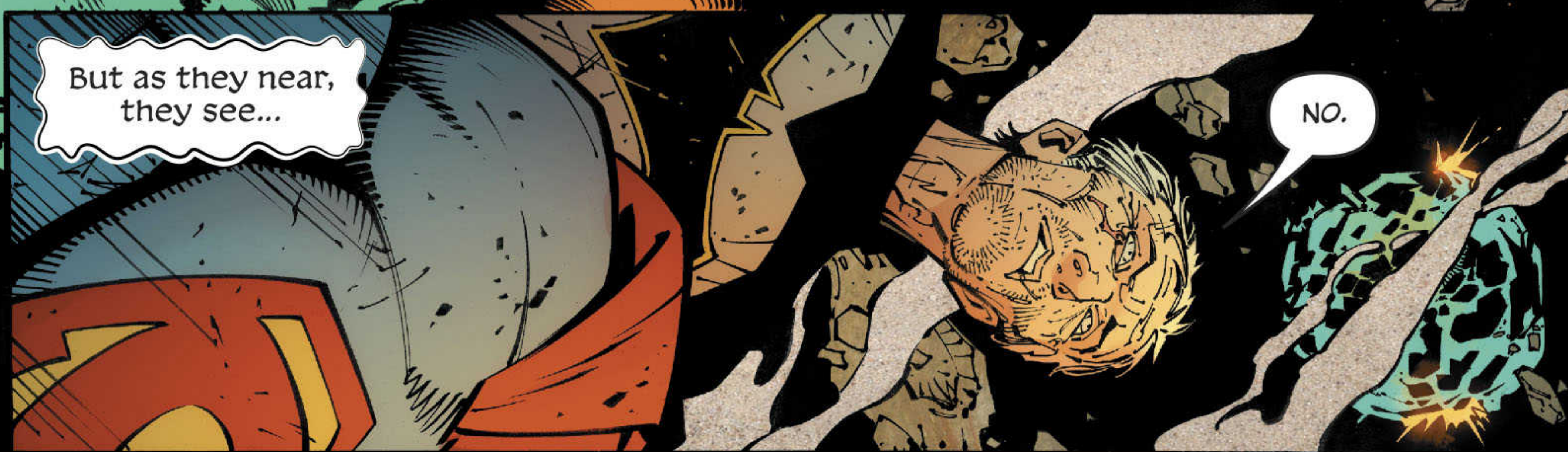
My lord, the book  
burns in your hands!  
So many books burn...

I know, Lucien,  
but I will read on  
as long as I can...



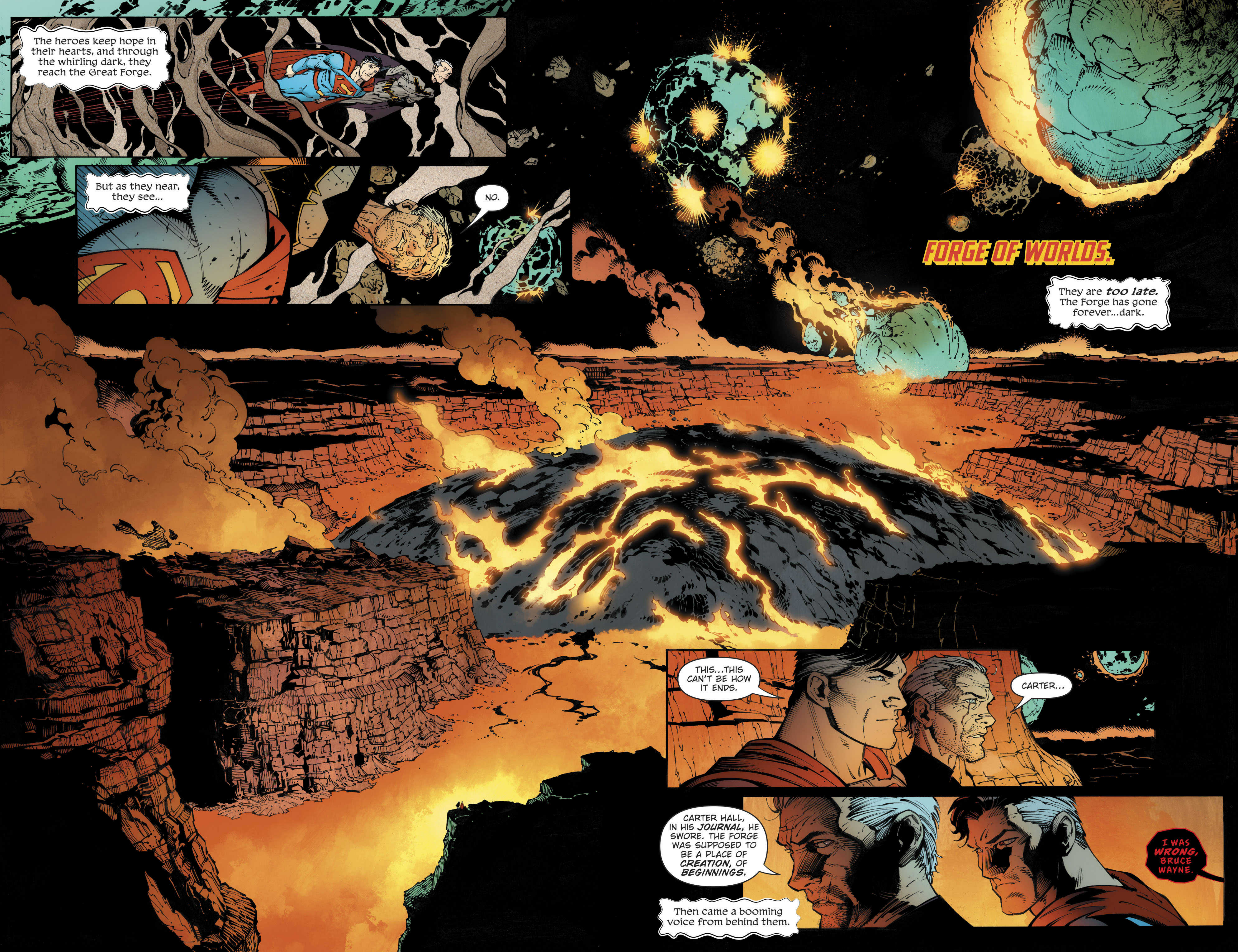


The heroes keep hope in their hearts, and through the whirling dark, they reach the Great Forge.



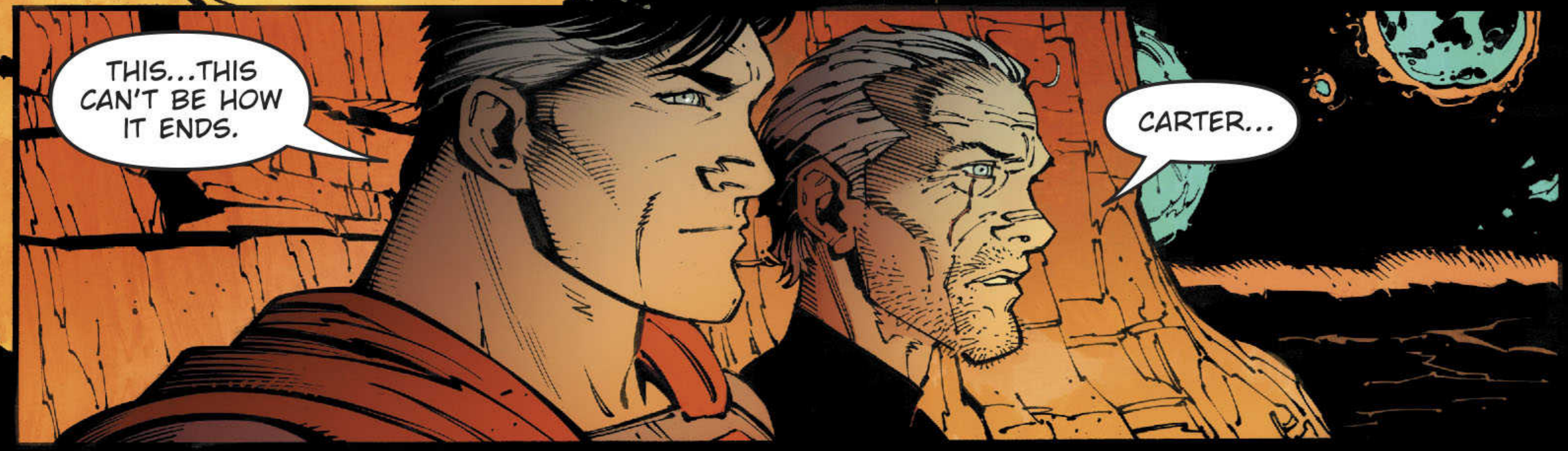
But as they near, they see...

NO.



# FORGE OF WORLDS.

They are *too late*. The Forge has gone forever...dark.



THIS...THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT ENDS.

CARTER...



CARTER HALL, IN HIS JOURNAL, HE SWORE. THE FORGE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLACE OF CREATION, OF BEGINNINGS.

I WAS WRONG, BRUCE WAYNE.

Then came a booming voice from behind them.





I AM CARTER HALL,  
DRAGON OF BARBATOS,  
KEEPER OF THE  
DARK FORGE.

AND  
THERE ARE  
ONLY ENDINGS  
HERE.

And with those  
words, this book,  
and all hope,  
burns to ash.

Next:  
**Night** of the  
Hawks!